

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for the following examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kent Sieffert on December 15, 2009.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 13, "flow." has been replaced with – flow, wherein the traffic flow criteria specifies an appropriate action that is performed on the network packet.—

Claim 14 has been cancelled.

Claim 15, "claim 14" has been replaced with –claim1—

Claim 16, line 11, "flow." has been replaced with –flow, wherein the traffic flow criteria specifies an appropriate action that is performed on the network packet.—

Claim 22, line 1, "wherein the traffic flow criteria specifies an appropriate action that is performed on the network packet, wherein the appropriate action includes one of load balancing,

rate limiting, and filtering.” has been replaced with --wherein the appropriate action includes one of load balancing, rate limiting, and filtering.—

Claim 55, line 13, “flow.” has been replaced with – flow, wherein the traffic flow criteria specifies an appropriate action that is performed on the network packet.—

Claim 63, line 11, “flow.” has been replaced with – flow, wherein the traffic flow criteria specifies an appropriate action that is performed on the network packet.—

4. Authorization for the following examiner’s amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Shands on March 25, 2010.
5. The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 55, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium—.

Claim 56, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium—.

Claim 57, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium—.

Claim 58, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium—.

Claim 59, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium—.

Claim 60, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 61, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 62, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 63, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 64, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 65, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 66, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 67, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 68, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 69, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 70, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 86, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Claim 89, line 1, “A computer-readable medium” has been replaced with – A non-transitory computer-readable medium–.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method for distributing traffic flow criteria between network devices, the method comprising: defining a flow specification data type for a routing protocol, wherein the flow specification data type allows a variable number of packet flow attributes to be specified for a packet flow through a network; generating, with a first routing device, a message that encodes routing topology information, wherein the routing topology information defines at least one route between a first network device and a second network device, and traffic flow criteria specifying the packet flow in accordance with the flow specification data type; and communicating, with the first routing device, the message to a second routing device to direct the second routing device to control network traffic based on the traffic flow criteria: wherein the traffic flow criteria comprises source information that identifies a source network device of the packet flow, as recited in independent claims 1, 16, 32, 39, 46, 55 and 63..

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roberta A. Shand whose telephone number is (571)272-3161. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am-5:30pm.

4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on 571-272-7872. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/R. A. S./

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/William Trost/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2472